

DAILY BULLETIN

JUNE 27, 2006

U.N. COUNCIL MUST ADDRESS RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN MIDEAST, SUDAN

U.S. Ambassador Tichenor sees “room for hope” in Darfur..... 1

NORTH KOREA MUST DISCLOSE MISSILE TEST INTENTIONS, BUSH SAYS

Calls media disclosure of financial data monitoring program “disgraceful” 2

U.S. NUCLEAR SECURITY AGENCY FOCUSED ON REDUCING THREATS

NNSA aims to deny terrorists, others means to develop nuclear weapons 3

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTS CHIEF COUNSEL FOR CHINA TRADE

Schwab also announces creation of new intellectual property enforcement office 4

U.N. COUNCIL MUST ADDRESS RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN MIDEAST, SUDAN

U.S. Ambassador Tichenor sees “room for hope” in Darfur

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.N. Human Rights Council must address human rights violations among Palestinians and Israelis, as well as in Sudan's Darfur region, Burma and North Korea, U.S. Ambassador Warren W. Tichenor told the council June 26.

Calling on council members to be “intellectually honest,” Tichenor said the council should give equal attention to “the indiscriminate terror attacks that murder innocent Israelis” as to violations of Palestinians’ human rights.

Tichenor, the U.S. representative to the United Nations office in Geneva, also said that more involvement of the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza and the West Bank “could help make a real difference in many lives.”

The goal in the Middle East is for Israel and the Palestinians to live side by side as two independent states in peace and security, Tichenor said. But “with a Hamas Palestinian government that continues to endorse the destruction of Israel ... this long sought after goal remains elusive,” he said.

Tichenor also said the new council “must take action to streamline and depoliticize its agenda, to provide technical assistance and support to nations that need it, and to fund the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.”

The new council is holding its first session from June 19 to June 30 in Geneva. The United States did not seek membership on the Human Rights Council but is an observer of its deliberations. The United States has pledged to support the council politically, diplomatically and financially.

Government and government-supported militia in Sudan’s Darfur region continue to commit serious human rights and humanitarian law abuses, Tichenor said, although the U.N.’s Commission on Human Rights resolution in 2005 calling for human rights monitors in Darfur offers “room for hope” in the region.

Tichenor said the council must act on abuses in Burma, a country with a “complete absence of basic human rights,” as well as in North Korea.

North Korea, Tichenor said, “remains one of the world’s worst human rights violators.” The regime’s violations, Tichenor said, “include torture, summary or arbitrary executions, widespread forced labor, an extensive inhumane prison camp system and infanticide and forced abortions in those prisons.”

Patrick Smeller, the State Department’s human rights officer to the U.S. mission in Geneva, the United States called on the council to support the full implementation of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Statements by Tichenor and Smeller to Human Rights Council are available at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva Web site. More information about the U.N. Human Rights Council is available on the United Nations Web site.

NORTH KOREA MUST DISCLOSE MISSILE TEST INTENTIONS, BUSH SAYS

Calls media disclosure of financial data monitoring program “disgraceful”

Washington -- President Bush said North Korea should tell the international community its intentions over its planned long-range ballistic missile test, as well as about the warhead it has on the missile. Speaking to reporters June 26 after meeting with nongovernmental organizations that are supporting U.S. troops in Iraq, Bush also said Pyongyang’s proposed missile test is “provocative,” and the country has not responded to calls to disclose its intentions.

“We don’t know. That’s part of the problem. It’s a non-transparent society that ought to be sharing its intentions with the rest of the world,” he said.

The president welcomed the Chinese government’s delivery of a “focused message” to the North Koreans, and said he hopes “the leader [Kim Jong Il] in North Korea listened to the Chinese.”

North Korea’s interlocutors in the Six-Party Talks -- the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea -- have called upon Pyongyang to respect its own 1999 voluntary moratorium and refrain from testing a long-range ballistic missile.

TERRORIST FINANCE TRACKING SYSTEM

Bush also said the media disclosure of a U.S. Treasury Department program to look at the bank records of suspected terrorists is “disgraceful,” and that the program operates within the confines of U.S. law.

“We’re at war with a bunch of people who want to hurt the United States of America. And for people to leak that program and for a newspaper to publish it does great harm to the United States of America,” he said.

“If you want to figure out what the terrorists are doing, you try to follow their money, and that’s exactly what we’re doing,” he said.

IRAQ

Bush was asked about General George Casey’s draft proposal to cut the number of U.S. troops in Iraq.

He said Casey and the Iraqi government would make any decision on U.S. troop levels based upon the conditions on the ground. He said Casey assured him that “whatever recommendation he makes, it will be aimed toward achieving victory.”

Bush and Casey discussed the training of Iraqi security forces, as well as military actions going on in Baghdad and Ramadi. “The coalition is in the lead in Ramadi, and we’re trying to make sure Ramadi does not become a safe haven for al Qaeda,” he said.

The president said he is “determined to succeed” in Iraq, and “we will implement a plan to achieve victory,” adding, “I know we’re doing the right thing and I know we will win. Asked about global warming, the president called for implementing new technologies that will enable good environmental stewardship, such as clean coal and nuclear power, and to reduce dependence on foreign sources of oil through the use of hydrogen and ethanol.

“I’ve got a plan to be able to deal with greenhouse gases,” he said.

U.S. NUCLEAR SECURITY AGENCY FOCUSED ON REDUCING THREATS

NNSA aims to deny terrorists, others means to develop nuclear weapons

Washington -- The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has “accelerated and expanded” a five-pronged strategy to deny terrorists and rogue states the essentials needed to develop nuclear weapons, according to a senior official of that agency.

Jerry Paul, principal deputy administrator of the NNSA (part of the U.S. Department of Energy), said in prepared remarks that after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the agency has intensified efforts to keep nuclear material and nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists. He testified before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack June 22.

Paul explained to the subcommittee the five elements of NNSA’s strategy:

- To account for and secure nuclear material in Russia and the former Soviet Union:

More than 80 percent of Russia’s nuclear materials storage sites have been secured, Paul said. That includes 95 percent of the Russian navy warhead and nuclear fuel sites, which he said would be completed in fiscal year 2006. Security upgrades at all scheduled sites are expected to be complete by the end of 2008, two years ahead of the schedule agreed to in 2001, he said.

- To detect and prevent the movement or trafficking of weapons-usable technologies and useable nuclear materials:

NNSA works internationally to install radiation detection equipment at key transit points throughout the world -- including seaports, airports and land border crossings -- to improve U.S. ability to detect movement of nuclear and radiological materials, Paul said. NNSA also trains enforcement officers around the world to interdict illicit technology transfers, and helps governments improve their own safeguards to keep nuclear materials secure, he added.

- To stop the production of new fissile material in Russia:

Construction is under way, Paul said, at two sites in Russia where the United States is assisting the building of fossil fuel power plants. Targeted for completion in 2008 and 2011, the power stations will enable Russia to shut down its last three plutonium-producing nuclear reactors and cease production of new plutonium.

- To eliminate existing weapons-usable material:

Under a bilateral agreement, 500 metric tons of Russian highly enriched uranium from dismantled nuclear weapons is being “down-blended” to low-enriched, non-weapons grade material for use in commercial power reactors, Paul said. More than 270 metric tons -- the equivalent of about 11,000 warheads -- already have been converted and used to support civilian nuclear power in the United States, accounting for 10 percent of U.S. electricity production.

- To eliminate or consolidate the remaining weapons-usable nuclear and radiological materials that exists throughout the remainder of the world:

Under the Energy Department’s two-year-old Global Threat Reduction Initiative, NNSA is identifying, secur-

ing, recovering and helping dispose of at-risk nuclear and radiological materials worldwide.

Research reactors around the world are being converted from highly enriched to low enriched uranium fuel, Paul said. The agency also is working with Russia to develop technologies that will enable the conversion from high- to low-enriched fuel of Russian-designed research and test reactors in other countries.

U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTS CHIEF COUNSEL FOR CHINA TRADE

Schwab also announces creation of new intellectual property enforcement office

By Cassie Duong
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Susan C. Schwab has appointed Claire E. Reade to serve as chief counsel for China trade enforcement, according to a June 23 USTR press release.

Reade's newly created position stems from the USTR's top-to-bottom review of U.S.-China trade relations since China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001.

The United States aims to "integrate China more fully as a responsible stakeholder into the global rules-based system of international trade and secure its support for efforts to further open world markets," the USTR review says. "China must play its part in addressing the global imbalances that have arisen during the past four years of rapid global growth."

As chief counsel for China trade enforcement, Reade will coordinate USTR's efforts to ensure that China meets its international trade commitments as the country approaches the end of its transition period as a new WTO member. Reade will also co-chair USTR's China Enforcement Task Force.

"We will aggressively enforce the commitments that China made under the WTO and other trade agreements," Schwab said. "Claire Reade will bring extraordinary

legal talent and energy, as well as decades of top flight international trade litigation experience to our China enforcement efforts."

ESPINEL TO HEAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

Schwab also announced the creation of a new USTR intellectual property office headed by Assistant USTR Victoria A. Espinel.

The new office will direct bilateral discussions with numerous trading partners on a wide variety of intellectual property issues and release the annual "Special 301" report on international IPR protection, according to the USTR press release. In addition, the office will monitor intellectual property enforcement efforts around the world, with a special focus on priority countries such as China and Russia. Previously, USTR's Office of Services, Investment and Intellectual Property handled these tasks.

"The creation of a new office at USTR enhances our focus on protecting intellectual property," Schwab said.

Schwab also designated Stanford McCoy as USTR's new chief negotiator for intellectual property enforcement under the new office.

China agreed to increase intellectual property rights (IPR) protection when it entered the WTO. However, the USTR review says, "the volume of counterfeit goods from China seized at the U.S. border continues to rise."

"IPR enforcement is one of China's greatest shortcomings," the USTR review says.

According to Schwab, "Americans are among the world's greatest innovators, in no small part because of the strength of our respect for intellectual property rights in the United States."

"In the global economy, maintaining protections for American innovators abroad is critical to advancing U.S. competitiveness. Protections of Intellectual Property by other nations is also critical to their own economic development, including promotion of indigenous innovations, creativity and access to innovations by consumers and promoters of innovation," she said.

###